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NO: 470, February 20, 3 p.m.

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Public reaction King's US visit and renewal Dhahran airfield agreement not yet jelled. No (repeat no) editorial comment but press has carried detailed reports King's visit US and Apain and US-Saudi communique published ALBILAD. Reaction tentatively favorable although comments cautious and often noncommittal except among large business interests who generally favor close relations between two countries and , in this instance look for substantial assistance to relieve SAG'S current financial difficulties. This group appears highly satisfied with what it assumes be results King's visit, although attitude may change if assistance not up to expectations.

Cautionary comment among other groups appears stem at least in part from lack knowledge. Saudis, particularly younger ones, appear confused as to implications to Arabs and especially Arab nationalist aspirations of succession of important developments, i.e., Eisenhower proposals and Soviet counter-proposal, King's recent visits, and renewal Dhahran agreement. Before committing themselves, some undoubtely awaiting results of Arab Chiefs of State meeting in Cairo while all are awaiting more information as to actually what happened in Washington. Some are concerned US attempting isolate Egypt and Syria.

Public absorbed at moment with Israel's continued occupation Straits of Aqaba and Gaza areas (EMBTEL 469). Public closely watching US efforts secure Israeli withdrawal, and its continued confidence in US efforts in these areas will depend on result those efforts.

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Correction made by RM/R 3/11/57

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